

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 17802 220535Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SYE-00 EA-10 OPR-02 A-01
MCT-01 PA-01 INR-10 SS-15 INRE-00 /046 W
-----016761 220540Z /11
O 220320Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6597
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

HONG KONG FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF USAID EMPLOYEES IN LIGHT OF "BOMB"
THREAT

1. ALL USAID EMPLOYEES, BANGKOK WERE EVACUATED FROM THEIR OFFICES FOR APPROXIMATELY A 3 HOUR PERIOD, ROUGHLY BETWEEN 11:30 AM AND 1:30 PM ON JUNE 21, FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A TELEPHONE CALL TO USAID ADVISING THAT A BOMB WAS LOCATED SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION'S THIRD FLOOR AREA; SEARCH CONDUCTED BY ACTING REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER, AND MARINE SECURITY GUARD PERSONNEL FAILED TO LOCATE ANY EXPLOSIVE OR INCENDIARY DEVICES WITH THE RESULT THAT PERSONNEL DIRECTED TO RETURN TO THEIR OFFICES BY 1:30 PM

2. THE EVACUATION WAS ORDERED BY USAID C&R/POST SECURITY OFFICER TIMOTHY EDWARDS IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIPT OF A TELEPHONE CALL THROUGH THE USAID OPERATOR IN WHICH THE CALLER IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS BANGKOK METROPOLITAN POLICE SGT. MAJOR PRAKIT, AND REPORTED THAT A BOMB
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 17802 220535Z

WAS LOCATED SOMEWHERE ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE USAID FACILITY, FURTHER ADDING, JUST PRIOR TO HANGING UP, THAT HIS INFORMATION COULD BE IMMEDIATELY VERIFIED BY CONTACTING NEARBY PHYA THAI POLICE STATION.

3. FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF THE EMBASSY REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE, APPROXIMATELY 15 MINUTES AFTER RECEIPT OF THE

CALL, AND SUBSEQUENT TO THE EVACUATION, THE ACTING REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER DISPATCHED ALL AVAILABLE OFF-DUTY MARINE SECURITY GUARDS TO THE USAID INSTALLATION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ASCERTAINING FROM PHYA THAI POLICE OFFICIALS THEY WERE UNAWARE OF ANY BOMB THREAT TO THE USAID INSTALLATION AND WERE UNACQUAINTED WITH ANY METRO POLICE SGT. MAJOR NAMED PRAKIT.

4. MARINE SECURITY GUARDS FUNCTIONED BOTH IN THE ROLE OF PROVIDING CROWD CONTROL AND EXECUTING A THOROUGH SEARCH OF ALL USAID OFFICES.

5. LOCAL POLICE ALSO ARRIVED ON THE SCENE AND CONDUCTED A SEARCH OF THE THIRD FLOOR OFFICES OF TWO PRIVATE FIRMS LOCATED DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO USAID THIRD FLOOR FACILITIES.

6. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF THE SEARCH BY MARINE SECURITY GUARDS OF ALL USAID OFFICES AS WELL AS THAT CONDUCTED BY LOCAL THAI POLICE WITH REGARD TO THE OFFICES MENTIONED IN PARAGRAPH SIX ABOVE, IN THE ABSENCE OF THE DISCOVERY OF ANY EXPLOSIVE OR INCINDIARY DEVICE, ALL USAID EMPLOYEES--AS WELL AS THOSE OF VARIOUS PROVATE COMPANIES HOUSED IN THE SAME BUILDING AS THE USAID FACILITIES--WERE DIRECTED TO RETURN TO THEIR OFFICES FOR RESUMPTION OF REGULAR WORKDAY ACTIVITIES.

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 17802 220535Z

7. THE ABOVE INCIDENT IS SET FORTH IN DETAIL IN THAT DEPARTMENT MAY WELL BE THE OBJECT OF FURTHER INQUIRIES SINCE THE INCIDENT NOT ONLY SERVED TO ATTRACT EXTENSIVE LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE, BUT GENERATED DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE INQUIRIES ON THE PART OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL AS WELL.
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Message Attributes

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